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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/649,783	08/28/2003	Wataru Iino	Q77061	5836

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EXAMINER

RIVERA, WILLIAM ARAUZ

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3654

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/649,783

Applicant(s)

IINO, WATARU

Examiner

William A Rivera

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/28/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

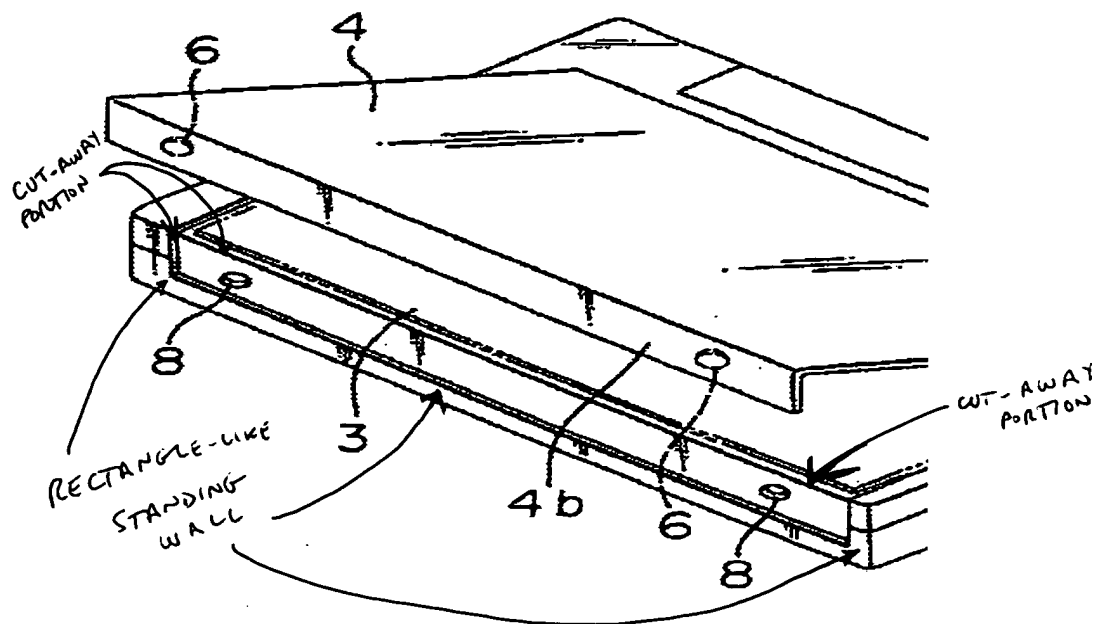
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shiba et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,421) or Wells (U.S. Patent No. 3,458,157).

With respect to Claims 1-7 and 11-16, Shiba et al, Figure 4, teach a cartridge comprising a case accommodating a recording medium therein; and a label area surrounded by a rectangle-like standing wall at an outer face of the case, wherein a portion in a longitudinal direction of one side portion of the standing wall is excised to provide a cut-away portion, which communicates with the label area, at the case

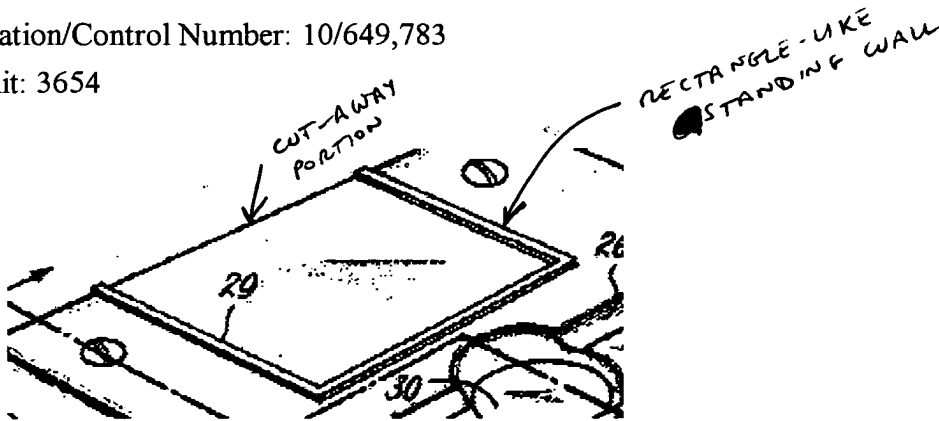


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wherein the label area is formed at a rear wall of the case, at a rear side in a direction of loading the case into a drive device, and the cut-away portion is provided at a substantially central portion in the longitudinal direction of an upper side portion of the standing wall; wherein the cut-away portion is provided to communicate with an upper face of the case; wherein the label area is formed at a rear wall of the case, at a rear side in a direction of loading the case to a drive device, and the cut-away portion is provided at a substantially central portion in the longitudinal direction of a lower side portion of the standing wall; wherein the outer face of the case is recessed to form the standing wall; wherein the standing wall is formed to be protruded from the outer face of the case; wherein the recording medium comprises recording tape wound on at least one reel and the cartridge includes a recording tape cartridge; wherein the case includes an upper case and a lower case, and the label area is formed to extend over the upper case and the lower case; wherein a surface area of the label area at the upper case is formed to be greater than a surface area of the label area at the lower case.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 11-12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shiba et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,421) or Wells (U.S. Patent No. 3,458,157).

With respect to Claims 1, 6, 7, 11-12, and 16, Shiba et al, Figure 4, teach a cartridge comprising a case accommodating a recording medium therein; and a label area surrounded by a rectangle-like standing wall at an outer face of the case, wherein a portion in a longitudinal direction of one side portion of the standing wall is excised to provide a cut-away portion, which communicates with the label area, at the case.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiba et al as applied to claims 1-7 and 9-16 above, and further in view of Meguro (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,471).

With respect to Claim 8, Shiba et al teach all the elements of the cartridge except for the cartridge including a disc cartridge. Meguro, Figure 10, teaches a recording medium comprising a disc medium. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a label area to a disc medium, as taught by Meguro, for the purpose of differentiating the disc medium from a tape medium.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William A Rivera whose telephone number is 703-308-2684.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday - 7:30 to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on 703-308-2688. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



WILLIAM A. RIVERA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

March 16, 2005